



2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

April 19, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities, Chiropractic Facilities, Community Residential Care Facilities, Hospitals and Institutional General Infirmaries, and Residential Treatment Facilities for Children and Adolescents

FROM: Jerry L. Paul, Director
Health Licensing Section

SUBJECT: Conditions Allowing a Provider-wide Exception to the Requirements of Regulation 61-91, Ambulatory Surgical Facilities, Section 2501.B; Regulation 61-90, Chiropractic Facilities, Section 1801.B; Regulation 61-84, Standards for Licensing Community Residential Care Facilities, Section 2401.B; Regulation 61-16, Hospitals and Institutional General Infirmaries, Section 2501.B; Regulation 61-103, Residential Treatment Facilities for Children and Adolescents, Section P(1)(b)

NOTE: This exception replaces a similar exception for community residential care facilities issued by the Department on July 17, 1998.

Regulation 61-91, Section 2501.B, requires that, "Exits shall be placed so that the entrance door of every room and every point in surgical suites, recovery rooms, lounges, dining rooms, etc., shall be not more than 100 feet along the line of travel from the nearest exit. In buildings equipped with automatic sprinklers this distance shall be not more than 150 feet." Regulation 61-90, Section 1801.B and Regulation 61-16, Section 2501.B require that "Exits shall be place so that the entrance door of every private room and sem-private room, and every point in open wards, day rooms, dormitories, dining rooms, et cetera, shall not be more than 100 feet along the line of travel from the nearest exit. In building equipped with automatic sprinklers this distance shall not be more than 150 feet." Regulation 61-84, Section 2401.B requires that "Exits shall be place so that the entrance door of every private room and semiprivate room and every pont shall be not more than 100 feet along the line of travel to the nearest exit." Regulation 61-103, Section P (1)(b) requires that "Exits shall be placed so that the entrance door of every private room and semi-private room shall be not more than 100 feet along the line of travel to the nearest exit."

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Having reviewed the most recent Standard Building Code requirements for travel distances for the occupancy categories in the above facilities, it has been determined that the distances indicated in each respective regulation may be excessively restrictive. In the interest of establishing reasonable standards which can be met by providers and yet do not compromise the health and well-being of patients cared for in the above facilities, it has been determined that alternative standards will be considered as acceptable.

All ambulatory surgical facilities, chiropractic facilities, community residential care facilities, hospitals and institutional general infirmaries, and residential treatment facilities for children and adolescents will be required to meet the standard outlined in each facility's respective licensing standard, i.e., R61-91, Section 2501.B, R61-90, Section 1801.B, R61-84, Section 2401.B, R61-16, Section 2501.B; or R61-103, Section P (1)(b), or, as an alternative:

Exits shall be so located that the travel distance to the most remote point in a floor area, room or space to the nearest exit, along the line of travel, shall be no more than the travel distance specified by occupancy type as defined in the Standard Building Code.

NOTE: In facilities that are surveyed for federal reimbursement by the Health Care Finance Administration (HCFA), the maximum travel distance shall be the shortest of the requirements of the Standard Building Code and the Life Safety Code (National Fire Protection Association 101).

These exceptions apply to any ambulatory surgical facility, chiropractic facility, community residential care facility, hospital or institutional general infirmary, or residential treatment facility for children and adolescents licensed by the Department. It relates solely to SC licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions, you may call Mr. William Lafferty at (803) 737-7663.

JPL/JML

cc: Alice Truluck
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